

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/873,275

Applicant(s)

HAYASHI, KIYOKO

Examiner

James S. Wozniak

Art Unit

2655

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/8/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. In response to the office action from 7/15/2004, the applicant has submitted an amendment, filed 10/8/2004, amending Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 11, while arguing to traverse the art rejection based on the limitation regarding detailed character setting information that is separate from character setting information and inserted in an email text in order to specify a speaking voice type for a speech synthesizer (*Amendment, Pages 10-12*). Based on the applicant's arguments and the amended claims, the examiner has withdrawn the previous claim rejections. Furthermore Claims 1-11 are allowable over the prior art of record for those reasons listed below.

## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Catherine Voisinnet on 1/19/2005.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 1, Line 13; Claim 3, Line 2; Claim 8, Line 2; and Claim 10, Line 4, "the mail device" has been changed to --the electronic mail device--.

In Claim 6, Line 14 and Claim 11, Line 17, "the e-mail" has been changed to --the electronic mail--.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. **Claims 1-11** are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to **Claim 1**, the prior art of record does not specifically teach or explicitly suggest an electronic mail device capable of vocally reproducing an electronic mail text that includes a first character text string and second detailed character text string that are inserted and stored separately within the electronic mail text for vocally synthesizing electronic mail text in a voice specified by the two strings. The prior art of record also fails to specifically teach or explicitly suggest that the first character text string specifies the voice to be used by a voice synthesis device (female, robot, alien, etc.) while the second detailed character text string specifies how that particular voice will sound (height, deepness, speed, etc.). Saito (JP 04-

175049) only recites voice-identifying text characters that are stored in a single string in an electronic mail text and does not specifically teach or explicitly suggest the inclusion of a second detailed character text string that further specifies synthesized voice quality. The prior art also fails to teach the features noted above in combination with a memory that separately stores character string information and detailed character string information. Thus, Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

**Claims 2-5** further limit an allowed independent claim, and thus are also allowed.

**Claims 6 and 11** contain subject matter similar to Claim 1, and thus, are allowable for the same reasons noted above with respect to Claim 1, in combination with the means for connecting to a server containing the character voice information corresponding to the inserted character text strings during a voice synthesis step.

**Claims 7-10** further limit an allowed independent claim, and thus are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. Wozniak whose telephone number is (703) 305-8669


Art Unit: 2655

and email is James.Wozniak@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays, 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached at (703) 305-4827. The fax/phone number for the Technology Center 2600 where this application is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the technology center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

James S. Wozniak  
1/19/2005



DAVID L. OMETZ  
PRIMARY EXAMINER